

Matches, Lighters, and Candles



- Young children can be badly burned or die playing with matches and lighters. Put away all matches and lighters where children cannot see or touch them.
- Use a lock or a safety latch to close the place where you keep the matches and lighters. **Picture 1**
- Teach children that matches and lighters are for grownups only. Be safe when you use them. Your children learn by watching what you do.
- If possible, use battery-powered candles that do not have a flame. They are safer. **Picture 2**
- If you light a candle, an adult must stay in the room with it at all times and stay awake. Blow out all candles before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Place candles on flat, sturdy surfaces like tables. If possible, use a hurricane glass that surrounds the open flame. That can help prevent a fire if something comes too close to the candle.
- Put candles in places where they will not be bumped or knocked over by young children or pets. Keep candles at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.



One more thing! Young children are very curious. If they find matches or a lighter, they will probably try to use them. This curiosity is normal...but it is also extremely dangerous.

If you think your child has been playing with fire:

1. Do not get angry or punish your child.
2. Remind your child that fire is very dangerous and that matches and lighters are tools for grownups only. **Picture 3**
3. Make sure ALL matches and lighters in your home are locked up at all times.
4. Watch your child carefully. If he or she sets another fire, get help. Call your local fire department for information.

